

# Rep. Shay Schual-Berke

## 33rd District



**Rep. Shay Schual-Berke with Dr. Sam Cullison, President of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA). Schual-Berke was WSMA's Legislator of the Year for 2001.**

## Health Care Reform

It is time for the legislature to deal with our broken healthcare system in a meaningful way. Although we spend a lot of money for it, we still have far too many people without access to affordable and quality healthcare. The number of people without health insurance is rising; even those who have insurance are paying more and more out of pocket. In the coming months I will be looking for solutions to bring to the legislature. I hope to have conversations with many of you, and invite your thoughts and suggestions.



## Keep in Touch

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Health Care (Vice-chair)  
Appropriations  
Select Committee on Community Security

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**State Representative**  
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**33rd District**  
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600



## State Representative **Shay** **Schual-Berke** 33rd District

# 2002 Voting Record

May 2002

*Dear Neighbor,*

*These are tough economic times for us both as individuals and as a state. The 2002 legislative session is over, on time – no special sessions – and with a balanced budget. But to get there we had to cut \$700 million, eliminating programs, services and state jobs. These cuts were difficult and painful; people are already feeling their effects.*

*Within this budget-cutting environment, I did my best to represent the interests of this district by supporting changes to make our schools better and communities safer, protect health and human services for the most vulnerable among us, and make our state a friendlier place to conduct business. Nonetheless, there is much we couldn't accomplish this session.*

*I want you to know how I voted on a range of state issues, especially those that you have most frequently asked about. If you would like information about other issues, please let me know.*

*To hold down costs to taxpayers, my office will be staffed part-time between now and next January, while the Legislature is out of session. Any time-sensitive messages, however, will always get to me quickly.*

*It remains my distinct privilege to represent you in the Legislature. If you would like me to meet with a group that you belong to, please let me know. Listening to you helps me do my job better.*

*Warmly,*

*Shay*

Shay Schual-Berke, M.D.  
State Representative



**Terrorism:**

In the wake of September 11, I was asked to serve on the newly formed Select Committee on Community Security. Many experts feel we must strengthen our early detection and prevention systems in preparation for future episodes of bioterrorism. I authored and voted YES on Planning for Bioterrorism (HB 2854). This strengthens our public health system so that it can take those measures necessary to detect and respond to a public health emergency related to bioterrorism (Funded in budget). I voted NO on two other terrorism bills (HB 2416 and 2879), which would have infringed on our civil liberties and were not necessary for our protection. (Both bills died)

**Drug Sentencing Reform:**

I voted YES to protect communities from violence and launch a smarter approach to crime and punishment when it comes to narcotics. This law reduces jail time for non-violent low-level drug offenders, saves \$8.2 million through reducing inmate housing costs and sends offenders straight to drug treatment and prevention programs, helping to break the cycle of addiction and expensive jail-time. This bill also pays for drug courts. We can't afford to keep imprisoning non-violent drug addicts; it's cheaper and smarter to rehabilitate them. *(Governor signed)*

**School Safety:**

I voted YES on a pair of landmark bills that will make our schools safer places for our children and teachers. School districts will have to develop policies to prevent the bullying and harassment that goes on far too often on our school grounds. Our schools will also have to develop better ways to address threats of violence or harm that are made to either fellow students or teachers. *(Governor signed)*

**Airport Noise Mitigation:**

In the state's capital budget, on which I voted YES, I requested and received \$5 million dedicated to helping Highline Schools lessen the impacts of airport noise and pollution on our children. This money comes with no strings attached, and will help make our schools some of the best places to learn in Washington state. *(Governor signed)*

**Credit Scoring:**

Some insurance companies have used a practice called "credit scoring" to use your credit history to charge outrageous insurance premiums, or even to deny, cancel or not renew a policy. I voted YES on what is now one of the toughest laws in the country to deal with the unchecked use of credit history information in personal insurance lines like homeowners and auto insurance, and to make the insurance companies deal more reasonably with factors used to determine your credit. *(Governor signed)*

**Prescription Drugs:**

Prescription drug costs are the leading reason that healthcare costs are skyrocketing, and have become the "Pac Man" of the state budget. I sponsored and voted YES (in committee) on a bill that would have allowed the state to purchase drugs for many of Washington's citizens. Volume purchasing would have let market forces work for us to help the state negotiate better prices for you. As a physician, I helped write this bill, which would have helped make the right medicine available to us, at the right time, and at the right price. Too many of us don't have coverage for prescription drugs, and can't afford to purchase them. This bill would have allowed people without insurance coverage to buy in to the state purchasing pool, and to take advantage of that discount on prescription drugs. The Legislature's inability to

pass this bill is one of its most glaring failures this year. We will try again next session. *(Bill died)*

**Operating Budget:**

I voted NO (in committee) on the House version of the operating budget because it made devastating cuts to health and human services. I fought to restore many of those cuts in the Senate version, like funding for the Kent Pediatric Interim Care Center, a cost-effective and compassionate place to care for drug-addicted newborn infants; restoring money for hospitals that care for trauma victims who can't afford to pay for the high costs of their life-saving care; and eliminating the freeze on enrolling children who can get health insurance through the state's program for low income children. I voted YES on the Senate bill. *(Governor Signed)*

**Transportation:**

Our state is decades behind in responding to our transportation crisis. It is clear from citizens and businesses alike that our quality of life and our economic livelihoods depend on solving this problem. It is so critical that we start ending gridlock that I was willing to vote YES to have the Legislature pass a statewide package that will invest \$7.7 billion over ten years on highway projects, transit and ferries – whether we took that vote in Olympia or sent it to the voters as a referendum. The voters will have the final say this November. I also voted YES on a package of bills that will make our transportation systems more efficient and accountable. I voted YES on another bill to allow King, Pierce and Snohomish counties to see how they may cooperatively join together on road projects, and how the money for those projects should be raised. *(Governor Signed)*

**Pension Governance:**

I strongly supported, and voted YES on a bill that would have allowed active and retired employees to have a voice on their own pension board. It makes sense to allow such representation. *(Bill died)*

**Unemployment Insurance/Domestic Violence:**

If someone leaves their job because their husband or wife is relocating elsewhere, they are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. But if they are forced to leave because they are the victim of domestic violence or stalking and must get away from their abuser, they are not! I voted YES on this common sense bill that will allow such victims to be eligible. *(Governor Signed)*

**Emergency Contraception for Rape Victims:**

I sponsored and voted YES on this bill to protect women who are already traumatized by sexual assault from the fear of unwanted pregnancy. Emergency contraception is safe, and can greatly reduce the risk of becoming pregnant from a rape if the victim is seen quickly by a knowledgeable and willing provider. Every hospital that cares for such victims will now make sure they know emergency contraception is an option, and will provide it if she wants it. *(Governor Signed)*

**Simple Majority:**

Our school bonds and levies require a supermajority "yes" vote of 60% ever since the state Constitution was amended during the Depression and World War II. I authored and voted "YES" on a resolution to the people that would have allowed you, for the first time ever, to vote on whether or not you wished to amend the Constitution again to eliminate this requirement. The only way the people can amend the Constitution is for the Legislature to send them such a resolution. *(Resolution failed by one vote in the House, 67-31; it needed a 2/3rds majority)*

**Promise Scholarships:**

As tuition has risen in our state schools, many middle-income students find it increasingly difficult to find the financial help they need to go to college. I voted YES on a bill to create these need and merit-based scholarships that may provide up to two years tuition. *(Governor Signed)*

**Civil Service Reform:**

I voted YES on this landmark legislation that was requested by the Governor. This bill will reform our civil service system. It expands the scope of collective bargaining for some state employees to the level that so many other employees already have, while still leaving it up to the Legislature to control the purse strings. It also expands the state's ability to contract out services. *(Governor Signed)*

**Campaign Finance Reform:**

I sponsored a bill that would have made county and countywide elected officials, including port commissioners subject to the same campaign contribution limits as statewide elected officials. Campaign contribution limits keep any one special interest from having too much influence on a campaign. No significant race should be exempt from this good policy. The bill never came up for a vote but will be studied over the interim. *(Bill Died)*

**Prohibiting Pro Football Blackouts:**

I sponsored and voted YES on a bill that would have prohibited pro football teams that play in stadiums funded with public money and their affiliated league from blacking out the local live broadcast of games played in the stadium. *(Bill Died)*

**Family Leave:**

I voted YES on a bill that allows workers to use their sick leave to care not only for themselves and their children but also for spouses, parents and grandparents. This will help workers balance work and family while helping businesses hold on to their valued employees. *(Governor Signed)*

**Unemployment Insurance Reform:**

I voted YES on a bill that will treat employers more fairly, prevent an unjustified tax-increase to businesses, and give laid-off workers more retraining opportunities. Some businesses pay more than their fair share of UI tax while others pay too little. This important business bill corrects that and helps many of our Washington state employers. *(Governor Signed)*

**Medicaid Waiver:**

I authored and voted YES (in committee) on a bill to prevent state agencies from having too much power, without legislative oversight, when it comes to deciding how Medicaid programs and benefits will work for low-income people in this state. DSHS, without asking the Legislature, requested permission from the federal government to change our Medicaid program in unprecedented ways, circumventing full legislative scrutiny. The Legislature must not give away the responsibilities and authority given to us by the voters. *(Bill Died)*

**Bank Robbery/Car Theft:**

Federal laws aren't good enough to deter the rise in bank robberies we have seen locally and statewide. I voted YES on a bill that makes bank robbery a state crime so state authorities can investigate. I also voted YES on another bill increasing penalties for car theft. *(Governor Signed)*